

8 DEC 1973

73-5534/A

Admiral George W. Anderson, Jr., USN (Ret.)
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Admiral:

I have delayed until now answering your letter of 25 September on COINS in order to get a more personal insight into the points you have raised and to take action to give COINS planning a further impetus. I agree with the Technical Panel views that during the coming years this broad subject of information flow promises to be increasingly critical to our business.

This past spring, Jim Schlesinger, as DCI, asked Dr. Hall to serve as Executive Agent for COINS development under IRAC auspices. At the IRAC meeting of 5 November he reported to me in detail on what he has been doing in a very complex managerial task. I am impressed that he is moving steadily ahead in an orderly way and as fast as is practicable. Attached is a list of actions that have been undertaken, and which I orally reported at the 6 December PFIAB meeting.

There is much to be done. The present principal users of COINS are within the DoD. A precise appraisal of the capability of such a mechanism for State and CIA production analysts is missing. Also, it appears that the planning to date falls short in context with the oncoming overhead collection programs and their future impact on information flow and analytical methodologies. We will need to fix this as well.

In order to move along faster in shaping my views of COINS concepts and planning, I have asked my Intelligence Community Staff to work directly on this matter with Dr. Hall, the involved agencies and the USIB Information Handling Committee (IHC) and to report to me on a program of action which will involve all potential community users.

Sincerely,
/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby

Distribution on DCI letter to Admiral Anderson, PFIAB, subject:
COINS

DCI/IC/INC/SS, []: WEColby:ibm

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